as it is the fashion to decry religious celibacy, Holy Scripture certainly warrants our believing the single state to be more conducive to holiness than the married. Who can read St. Paul, and not see this clearly? Far be it from me to say, that equal holiness is not attainable in the married state; I merely mean, that the single woman has the *easier* task. She has not the temptations of making idols of husband and children, of loving the world for their sake, of devoting the whole of her time and thoughts to their welfare, to the neglect of her religious duties. And though, no doubt, most women are fitted by nature for wedded life, I am sure that there are more than the despisers of religious celibacy would believe, who are intended to remain single.

"Whatever the sceptical may say to this idea, it cannot be denied that there are a great number of single ladies in the world, who seem to lead an aimless, cheerless existence, because they are not at the head of a household, and because they live in expectation of being ridiculed as 'old maids.' Surely it would a great increase of happiness, if women of this class could see the matter in the light I have shewn it, and find a centre for their thoughts and affections in the church, the true ark of refuge to the weary soul, which flies over the waves of this troublesome world, seeking a resting-place in vain.

"I have wandered far from architecture to-night; but I think you will pardon this digression, seeing that it is on a subject that cannot fail of being interesting. I have no more to say on the subject of altar-cloths but this—that if twelve young ladies chose to associate themselves to work an altar-cloth for their parish church, they would find that a very moderate share of money and time from each individual would enable them to get through their undertaking in a year. The material may be velvet, rich silk, or cloth. The altar-cloth at ——— Hill, near Bristol, worked by the four daughters of a clergyman, is of dark cloth, with a rich border of an ecclesiastical pattern, formed of scarlet and bright blue cloth *appliqué*, the edges being concealed by gold braid, and short sentences in Latin, such as 'Gloria Deo,' worked with gold braid in missal characters, within compartments, at stated distances in the border. Designs of a strictly ecclesiastical character may be obtained in London, together with embroidery materials, and directions for using them."

Subject to the remark already made as to the paucity of the illustrations, the work is well got up.

COUNTRY HOUSES OR COTTAGES.

Sir,—Some time since I noticed in one of the numbers of your really excellent paper a wish of one of your subscribers to see plans for small detached country houses or cottages. Not having seen any such plans from your more able correspondents, I have ventured to forward you the inclosed, to be disposed of as you please. The mode of construction is wooden framing, weather-boarded externally, and lathed and plastered on the inside. This, when well executed, makes a very comfortable habitation, and with good material and a little attention, may be made to last many years. The principal quarters or framings are to project beyond the weather-boards, and to have a fillet nailed to them over the boards, to exclude the wet from the joinings. One great defect generally found in structures of this kind is that the external door opens directly into the principal room, which is thereby rendered, in bad weather, extremely uncomfortable, as I have personally experienced; it is sometimes indeed sheltered by an open porch, but this affords only very little protection from wet, and less from cold. Another disadvantage is the small number of bedrooms, and having to pass through one to reach another; by a little contrivance, and at small expense, these inconveniences may be avoided.

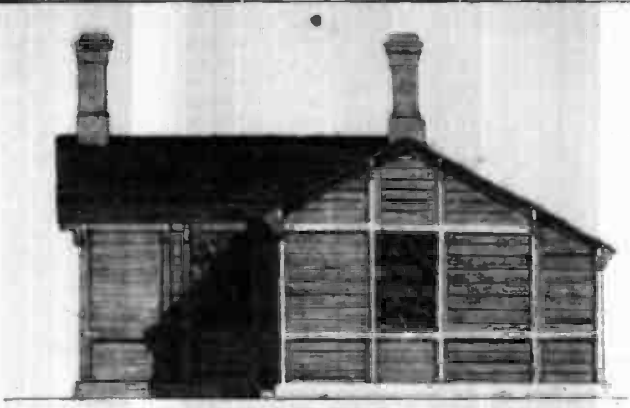
On the enclosed plans* A is the principal room, B a scullery, C porch or entrance, D, E, F, bedrooms, G store for coals, wood, &c., H privy, I shed-roof, to place tubs or other utensils under shelter from rain, and K, on plan 2, a pantry, the want of which on the other plan may be supplied by a safe, as is usual in such cottages. The fire-places, chimneys, and shafts, must of course be built of brick.

Placing these at your disposal, with thanks for the information which I have received from your esteemed paper,

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

D.

* Drawn to a scale of one-tenth of an inch to a foot.



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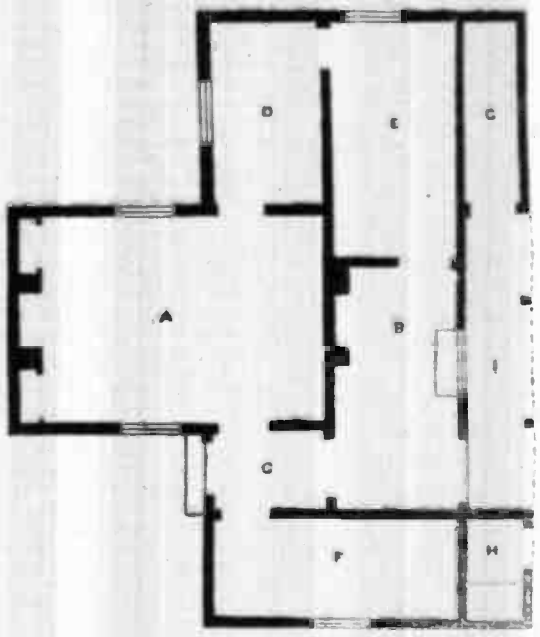

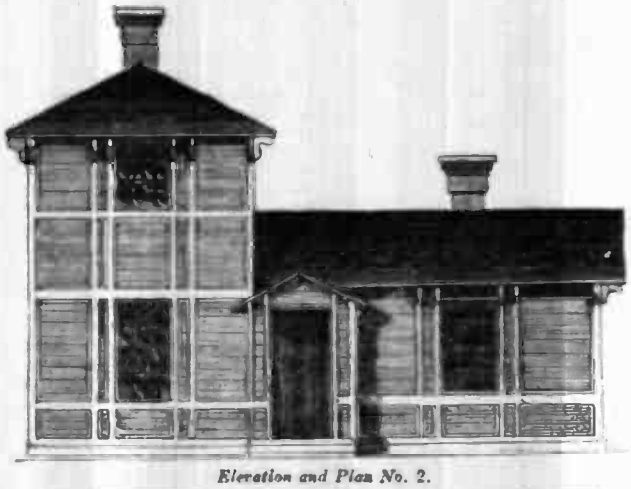

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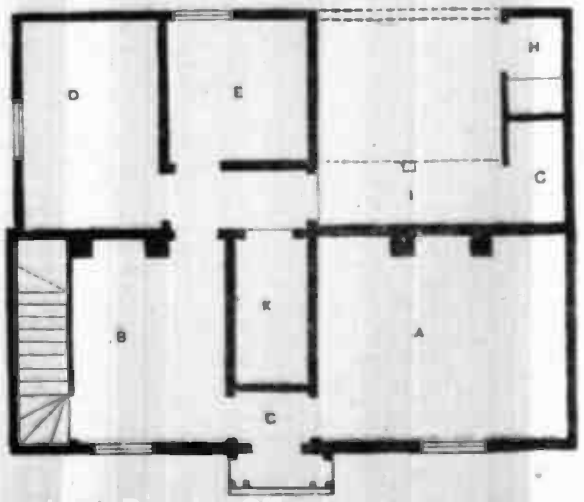

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